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SUBJECT Interview with Cord Meyer

MORTON KONDRACKE: Quote. "If Libya had been taken care of two years ago, last year, this year, Sadat would probably be alive today." Those words are from Henry Kissinger following the assassination of Anwar Sadat, and that quote comes at the top of a Wall Street Journal editorial today recommending that the CIA be unleashed. "Unleashed" being presumably an invitation for the CIA to do something about Colonel Qadaffi.

We have on the line with us syndicated columnist Cord Meyer, a long-time CIA agent, former station chief in London.

Cord, are you there?

CORD MEYER: Yeah, I'm here, Mort.

KONDRACKE: Okay. What do you suppose the CIA could have or should have done about Qadaffi?

MEYER: Well, I'm not sure at all that under the circumstances this was something that could have been dealt with by the CIA through some form of covert activity. I think what Mr. Sadat had been thinking about was a action with his armed forces across the border with Libya in an actual attempt to topple the regime.

There were obvious problems attached to that. It would have looked like, to some of the world, as an act of overt aggression. Secondly, it's a long way from the Libyan border to Tripoli, a thousand miles, and plenty of time for Qadaffi to rally his forces. And last of all, and most importantly, the danger of a Soviet intervention on Qadaffi's side. So that it wasn't as easy as Mr.